UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
11th meeting
held on
Friday, 27 October 1995
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997 (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 158: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 119: PATTERN OF CONFERENCES (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 115: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997 (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.7/Rev.1

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of the publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/50/SR.11
6 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

95-81837 (E)

/...

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997 (continued) (A/50/6 (vols. I and II), A/50/7 and A/50/16)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the Secretary-General had formulated his programme budget proposals for the biennium 1996-1997 on a minimum requirements basis, trying to do more with less. As a result, the proposed estimates fell below the level of the outline and that of the current appropriation for the biennium 1994-1995. Although the proposed programme budget was cost-effective, the level of resources proposed was sufficient for the efficient implementation of mandated activities. Any additional mandates would, however, require additional resources.

2. With regard to priorities and the medium-term plan, he noted that the Secretary-General's budgetary proposals were formulated to respond to programmatic requirements, as mandated by Member States. The basis for the programmatic aspects of the budget was the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, its revisions, and subsequent resolutions of legislative bodies. In formulating budget proposals for the biennium 1996-1997, the programme structure and content had followed the revisions, to the medium-term plan as approved by the Committee for Programme Coordination (CPC). In cases where CPC could not agree on the proposed revisions, the Secretariat had formulated the budget on the basis of the structure approved earlier by the General Assembly.

3. The programme of work was consistent with the priorities identified by the General Assembly and reflected general trends of a broad sectoral nature. He assured Member States that the priorities proposed for the 1996-1997 budget in no way diminished the priorities that had been established by the General Assembly when it had adopted the medium-term plan for 1992-1997. As was clear from the foreword to the budget, the Secretary-General had focused on three programme areas: strengthening the Organization's capacity to deal with political and peace-keeping activities, reinforcing international cooperation for development, and enhancing support for human rights and humanitarian activities. In addition, efforts had been made to increase the Organization's capacity for internal oversight functions.

4. The net decreases in resources for the economic and social areas which had been noted by some representatives represented significant one-time expenditures approved in 1994-1995 for the major global conferences that had taken place during the current biennium. The Secretary-General's proposal included measures to strengthen programmes dealing with areas such as sustainable development, micro-economic and social policy analysis, drug control and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. He also wished to draw the attention of Member States to the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General for the follow-up to the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the World Summit for Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Secretariat would in due course submit the Secretary-General's proposals

regarding follow-up to the Platform of Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women.

5. With regard to what some representatives had described as the bloated bureaucracy of the United Nations Secretariat, he said that under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, the Secretary-General was proposing a net reduction of 109 posts from the current biennium to a total of 10,006 established posts. For purposes of comparison, he pointed out that that was close to the number of established posts 20 years earlier, and that 10 years earlier, there had been 1,400 more. During the past two decades, however, the scope and volume of the United Nations activities had expanded significantly and 40 new Member States had joined the Organization, the General Assembly had established numerous intergovernmental and treaty bodies for which the Secretariat was required to provide substantive and conference services, while the number of meetings and reports had increased dramatically. The Secretariat had made a determined effort to redeploy staff and resources from low to high priority areas and to reduce administrative costs in favour of substantive areas. Priority areas such as those dealing with economic, social and humanitarian matters, had received an increase in staff from 3,714 to 4,052 in 20 years. The increased number of meetings was serviced by almost the same number of conference-servicing staff, 20 years earlier the Secretariat had had 2,191 such staff and the Secretary-General was proposing 2,112 for the biennium 1996-1997. Since the end of the cold war, in particular, the demands and expectations placed on the Organization had increased significantly and the Secretariat was determined to cope with the situation with renewed dedication. Through the budgetary process for 1996-1997, the Secretariat had made serious efforts to identify areas where it could manage with fewer staff, by abolishing 201 posts, while responding to high priority programmes and functions with a minimal addition of 66 posts.

6. The question of a proper ratio of General Service to Professional staff required a more careful analysis, given the variety of functions performed by the General Service staff and the nature of the activities of the various organizations of the United Nations system. An important feature of the United Nations regular budget was that it covered activities undertaken at many duty stations, which required the deployment of field service and local staff totalling nearly 2,000. Another feature was the provision of conference services, which required more than 1,000 conference-related General Service staff. Other General Service staff at Headquarters performed indispensable specialized work; because of the nature of their work, many of them provided services for the whole Secretariat. It should be noted that the majority of General Service staff were not secretarial staff. The Secretary-General was keenly aware of the need to limit the number of secretarial posts by taking full advantage of technical innovations. The proposals for 1996-1997 included a reduction of 151 General Service posts; there was no additional request for such posts.

7. With regard to further efficiency, after extensive analysis and rigorous scrutiny, the Secretary-General had proposed the rationalization of work programmes, technological improvements, the simplification of work procedures, and reductions in external printing, the travel of staff, consultancies, equipment and general operating expenses. The Secretary-General would conduct a

broader review to determine where there was duplication or overlapping of activities, or where activities had lost their relevance and would present recommendations to the General Assembly for appropriate decisions.

8. On the issue of recosting, he noted that, in accordance with the procedures established under General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 49/217, the programme budget for every biennium was recosted on three occasions: towards the end of the session of the General Assembly when the proposed programme budget was to be approved, at the end of the first year of the biennium in the context of the performance report, and when the General Assembly considered the second performance report. The recosting was based on the latest operational rates of exchange and the latest information regarding rates of inflation and adjustments to standard costs.

9. Recosting did not necessarily mean additional resources to cover currency or inflation changes upwards. Depending on the strength of the dollar vis-à-vis other currencies used for United Nations operations, and on inflation, it could lead either to additional costs or to reductions. In recent years, recosting had resulted in a reduction of currency adjustment in the initial appropriations as compared with proposed programme budgets for the previous three bienniums when the dollar had been stronger. The Secretary-General had prepared his proposals for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213. The final figure of recosting for the initial appropriations must await the latest currency and inflation data for December 1995. It was, however, expected that the continuing weakening of the dollar against the Swiss and Austrian currencies was likely to result in a considerable increase.

10. A conference room paper containing organizational charts showing the administrative structures would soon be issued, as would the staff list of the Secretariat.

11. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that Member States should be given a parallel picture of the impact of the post reductions on every section of the budget. The Secretariat should indicate how it was going to address the issue of follow-up action regarding global conferences such as the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International Conference on Population and Development, which had been held after the budget had been prepared. Specific information should also be provided on the transfer of resources between departments, especially on the nature of such transfers and their programmatic impact on various activities, including the impact on sending and receiving departments. The legislative authority for such transfers should also be provided. Specific information was required on the role of extrabudgetary resources, bearing in mind the priority areas. The Secretariat should explain the use and operation of the contingency fund. New guidelines might perhaps be required in that regard.

12. Mr. AMARI (Tunisia) said he agreed that there should be greater efficiency, increased cost-effectiveness, greater accountability and that the Organization's work should be streamlined. The Controller's comments should, however, have been limited to a comparison of the programme budgets for the bienniums 1994-1995 and 1996-1997. He welcomed the fact that the Committee would have organizational charts before it. The Secretariat should indicate the

legislative mandates for the transfer of resources, as such information was crucial to a proper consideration of the programme budget.

13. Mrs. ARAGON (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that they would carefully review the budget proposals when the Committee started its consideration section by section. The organizational charts to be submitted to the Committee should be accompanied by a definition of the tasks entrusted to each unit of the Secretariat with appropriate justifications.

14. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the Secretariat would provide additional information on the programmatic impact of the proposed post reductions and transfers as the Committee discussed the budget. It had been possible to reflect in the budget some of the follow-up measures to the global conferences, especially the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development. A separate report would be submitted on the most recent conferences. The Secretariat would submit an organizational chart which would provide a graphic presentation of the structure of every office and department. The functions of each unit could not, however, be presented in the same format. Such information would be found in the budget document.

AGENDA ITEM 158: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/49/6, A/49/16, A/49/99 and Add.1, A/49/135 and Add.1, A/49/301 and A/49/958; A/50/16; A/C.5/49/27 and Add.1 and A/C.5/49/28 and Add.1; E/1994/4, E/1994/19 and E/1995/21)

15. Mr. TOYA (Japan) welcomed the Secretariat's proposal for a prototype of a new format for the medium-term plan which would ensure a linkage between the programmatic and organizational structures of the Secretariat. Referring to the Secretary-General's proposal that, beginning in 1998, the new medium-term plan should cover a four-year period, he said that his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that a four-year cycle would be too short, given the Committee's interest in making the plan truly forward-looking and strategic. It was, however, flexible on that point. The related regulations and rules would have to be revised in due course, based upon the proposal of the Secretary-General and the decision of the General Assembly.

16. According to the proposed schedule for the preparation and review of the next medium-term plan, the Advisory Committee and CPC would review the proposed medium-term plan in May and June 1996. The General Assembly should approve the new format as soon as possible and request the Secretariat to submit a proposal so that the Committee could start deliberations on priority areas. The plan would then be submitted to the General Assembly for approval in a timely manner. Given the severe financial difficulties facing the Organization, the allocation of its limited resources among the various programmes should be discussed thoroughly and carefully. His delegation believed that the new format would facilitate such a discussion and thereby help to make the Organization more efficient and effective.

17. Mrs. RODRÍGUEZ ABASCAL (Cuba) said that the General Assembly had been unable to take substantive decisions on programme planning at its forty-ninth session owing to the violation of existing legislative mandates, the selective interpretation of some mandates, the non-submission of proposed revisions to the

medium-term plan to relevant intergovernmental organizations and the failure to provide appropriate technical advice to those bodies concerning their role in the planning process, as laid down in the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. Some Member States had also demonstrably lacked the political will to respect existing General Assembly resolutions.

18. In view of the legislative vacuum regarding proposed revisions to the medium-term plan, the adoption of some sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 would be possible only on condition that existing legislative mandates were reflected. In the view of her delegation, if the budget to be adopted for that biennium were to fall within the framework established by General Assembly resolution 41/213, it would be inappropriate to transpose the discussions that had taken place on that topic to the budget negotiations. A concerted effort was therefore needed to find a solution under the agenda item currently before the Committee that would satisfy the interests of each and every Member State.

19. As noted by the Secretary-General in paragraph 2 of his report on the prototype of a new format for the medium-term plan (A/49/301), the usefulness of the plan as currently conceived had been increasingly called into question both within the Secretariat and among Member States. The General Assembly had reiterated its request to the Secretary-General for a more user-friendly format in resolution 48/218. Although there was general agreement on the new structure proposed by the Secretariat, her delegation felt the need for more information and details on certain aspects of the proposal, in particular the aim of the perspective document. As noted by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 5 of its report (A/49/958), it was not clear from the Secretary-General's document how "broad priority areas" for the work of the Organization would be determined or what was meant by "pressing needs of an unforeseeable nature". An active exchange of views between the Secretariat and the Member States should accompany the preparation of the perspective document, which should analyse both persistent problems and new trends, maintaining a proper balance between the two.

20. The proposal for a programme framework required further development. The structure of the plan was based on legislative mandates and the integrity of the programmes with all their components should be preserved in whatever proposal was adopted. Regulation 3.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation stipulated that the medium-term plan was to be presented by programme and objective and not by organizational unit.

21. According to paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's report, there would be a consolidation of subprogrammes under the new format leading to a reduction in their number. Her delegation trusted that existing legislative mandates would be fully respected in that process and that the Secretariat would bear in mind the need to preserve subprogrammes in respect of which a General Assembly mandate existed.

22. As noted by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 9 of its report, the Secretariat should explain the rationale for the consolidation of subprogrammes and the criteria for dividing certain programmes among organizational units.

23. Her delegation wished to be informed of the proposed Secretariat timetable for the preparation and consideration of the medium-term plan once the prototype had been approved.

24. Lastly, her delegation reiterated its support for the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the second part of its thirty-fourth session (A/49/16, Part II).

25. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision regarding the prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan:

> "The General Assembly, recalling its resolutions 47/214 of 23 December 1992 and 48/218 I A of 23 December 1993, decides to authorize the Secretary-General to begin preparation of the proposed medium-term plan for the period after 1997, on the basis of recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fourth session and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and taking into account views expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to submit the new medium-term plan to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session through the Committee for Programme and Coordination."

If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision.

26. It was so decided.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded the general debate on agenda item 158. The other issues to be considered under that item would be dealt with together with the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

AGENDA ITEM 119: PATTERN OF CONFERENCES (continued) (A/50/32, A/50/263 and Add.1, A/50/288 and A/50/404)

28. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that her delegation was in general agreement with the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/50/32). In the light of the Organization's current financial situation, the overall utilization factor for conference services had assumed greater importance inasmuch as inefficient utilization of resources led to cost increases without corresponding benefits.

29. Her delegation endorsed the request by the Committee on Conferences for expansion of the core sample in the statistical analysis to include the Economic and Social Council and the Committee itself. It was concerned, however, that the sample did not include the Security Council, whose working methods and procedures in some cases impeded the effective and rational use of conference

services. It proposed that the matter should be duly reflected in any resolution adopted by the Fifth Committee.

30. High-quality translation and interpretation were of vital importance for the Organization's work and should be guaranteed through the recruitment of appropriately qualified personnel, with due regard for the maintenance of equitable geographical representation. Her delegation took note of the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 47 of its report, which referred to the international character of the Organization. It supported the statement by the delegation of France concerning multilingualism (A/50/32, annex I) and took note with satisfaction of the Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 88 and 89 of its report.

31. With regard to the control and limitation of documentation, pressure had been exerted on the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session to rule on a matter that lay outside its sphere of competence without even consulting the bodies concerned. Her delegation had taken note of the arguments put forward by those bodies, especially in connection with the need for their continued entitlement to meeting records. It had also taken note of the decision by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to accept unedited transcripts of its sessions, a decision that would be reviewed in due course. At all events, her delegation wished to oppose any tendency to impose such decisions on the bodies concerned without their consent.

32. With regard to the role and functions of the various organs and committees, her delegation deeply regretted the fact that an aspect of agenda item 119 currently before the Fifth Committee had been submitted to the plenary Assembly under the item "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization". In addition, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/220, which biennialized consideration of the pattern of conferences in the interests of more efficient use of resources, had been violated. Although analysis of the control and limitation of documentation had not been scheduled for the current year, her delegation was willing to consider the matter at the appropriate time and in the appropriate forum. In general, however, such practices were inadmissible and called for detailed examination by Member States.

33. The number of bodies requesting exceptions to the rule of biennialization of conferences and meetings had been increasing. The role of individual subsidiary bodies and the existence of solid grounds for the annualization of sessions should be carefully considered when a decision was taken as to whether to grant such exceptions. Her delegation fully agreed with the views expressed in paragraph 57 of the report of the Committee on Conferences.

34. The Secretariat's introduction of new translation and data-processing technology to ensure the more efficient use of resources and personnel should be undertaken in close consultation with Member States and relevant intergovernmental bodies. Her delegation trusted that the proposed programme budget for the next biennium would cover requirements in that area.

35. Mr. FATTAH (Egypt) said that his delegation supported the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/50/32, annex II).

36. His delegation wished to reaffirm the importance of adhering to the principle of the full equality of the six official languages through the meticulous application of all the relevant rules without regard for any extraneous considerations. It was also pleased to be among those States sponsoring the resolution on multilingualism at the United Nations, which affirmed the principle of equality among the different cultures which made up the international community, and hoped that a resolution on the subject would be adopted at the current session by consensus.

37. At the previous session, his delegation had submitted a substantive proposal aimed at enhancing the standard of Arabic at the United Nations (A/49/32, annex II), a proposal which the General Assembly had endorsed. His delegation had taken note of the efforts made by the Arabic Translation Service during the past year as a preliminary towards putting the proposal into effect, but it believed that a greater effort must be made to purify the Arabic language as used at the United Nations of the many alien terms it contained and to free texts from the limitations that prevented the quality of documents from being raised to the desired standards. His delegation accordingly requested the Secretary-General to establish a technical committee to review all terminology and translation practices with a view to implementing the second phase of the Egyptian proposal for the "Arabization" of United Nations documents and texts, which would improve their standard to the point where a reader would not recognize them as translations.

38. His delegation supported the efforts of the Secretariat to profit from new technology in the processing of documents. It also welcomed the increased use of the optical disk system for the storage and retrieval of documents, which contributed to the development of more advanced working methods not only in the Secretariat but also in those diplomatic missions that were linked to the system. However, financial difficulties prevented some developing countries from benefiting from new technology because of its high cost. The use of such technology must therefore not be inadvertently transformed into an instrument of discrimination between Member States.

39. Mr. OWADE (Kenya) said that, despite the Secretariat's efforts to ease the demand for documentation and to reduce wastage, there was still considerable room for improvement. His delegation supported the call for restraint in requests for documentation, which was a matter of collective responsibility.

40. He was gratified to note that advanced technology and better management were beginning to produce significant gains in productivity in respect of documentation, and he looked forward to the outcome of the proposed efficiency study on the printing operation in New York and Geneva.

41. His delegation shared the concerns of other speakers regarding the underutilization of conference services at some United Nations centres and by some subsidiary bodies. There was a need for continuous consultations between the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences and the chairmen of bodies with utilization rates far below the benchmark figure. His delegation also supported the proposal for active dialogue between the Office of Conference and Support Services and the secretariats concerned with a view to correcting the situation.

42. Although his delegation was aware of the wide difference in the scope of the activities undertaken at the United Nations offices in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, it was concerned at the relatively serious imbalance in capacity utilization, chiefly in terms of the number of meetings held at each location. The existence of centres in different regions should be viewed as an enhancement of the United Nations presence there, and the issue of effective and balanced utilization of United Nations centres should be addressed to alleviate the uneconomical use of the Organization's resources. Meetings could be redistributed from unduly busy to underutilized duty stations. His delegation was consulting others on the possibility of introducing a draft resolution urging governing bodies whose centres were underutilized to ensure effective use of their facilities.

43. With regard to the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, his delegation noted with concern that some United Nations offices and headquarters of subsidiary bodies would remain underutilized in the biennium 1996-1997. In particular, the United Nations Office in Nairobi had no meetings planned for 1996. Kenya had therefore offered to host the permanent secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nairobi in order to utilize the expertise and capacity that the United Nations Environment Programme had developed over the years.

44. Mr. VARELA (Chairman of the Committee on Conferences) said that the abiding concern of the Committee on Conferences was to ensure that conference resources were utilized as efficiently and effectively as possible. He was gratified that the members of the Fifth Committee shared its concern about the sizeable volume of documentation and the growing number of meetings, which called for practical and flexible action to ensure both rationalization and continued high quality of services. He was also gratified at the broad support expressed for the Committee's activities and for the conclusions and recommendations set forth in its report.

45. With regard to the new technology to be used as a means of improving productivity and cutting costs, he had taken note of the concern expressed by delegations to ensure full compliance with the principle of equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations.

46. He assured the members of the Fifth Committee that the dialogue and consultations that were such an essential part of the Committee's work would continue and be reinforced.

47. Mr. RIESCO (Director of Conference Services) said that he had taken careful note of the suggestions made by the members of the Committee and that work had already begun on some of them, such as the dovetailing of short meetings that could be serviced as a block, action to improve the quality of translation, the development of a more accurate cost-accounting system for conference services, the calculation of comparative costs for meetings held at different locations, and the development of various modalities for the provision of services.

48. The Office of Conference and Support Services was highly appreciative of the support and guidance it had received, and would no doubt continue to

receive, from delegations in its efforts to improve the quality and cost-efficiency of conference services.

AGENDA ITEM 115: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997 (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.7/Rev.1 (A/C.5/50/14)

49. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), referring to the statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the financing of the extension of the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL) (A/C.5/50/14), said, that MINUSAL had been established for a six-month period from 1 May to 31 October 1995, following the end of the mandate of ONUSAL. Financing of MINUSAL for that six-month period had been provided under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. The Secretary-General had committed expenditures in the amount of $1,028,500.

50. In addition to the amount committed under unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, $320,000 had also been made available from a Trust Fund, which had a balance remaining of $70,000. Total expenditure estimated by the Secretary-General for the six months from 1 November 1995 to 30 April 1996 was $1,366,200. Details of the expenses were set out in paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/50/14. Total estimated expenditure was $452,500 for 1995 and $913,700 for 1996. Those estimates would cover, in addition to other costs, the expenses of 10 Professional posts, 1 General Service post and 15 local posts, in addition to 4 civilian police.

51. The report of the Secretary-General and the information given to ACABQ indicated that the proposal for the extension of MINUSAL for the six-month period from 1 November 1995 to April 1996 included a gradual reduction in both its strength and its costs. However, the timing of the reductions in personnel and costs was not fully explained in the Secretary-General's statement. The Advisory Committee was of the view that, as the implementation of various aspects of the peace agreements was completed, the Secretary-General should review the number and level of the posts and the other expenses of the Mission with a view to making appropriate reductions.

52. Taking into account the adjustments he had mentioned, the Advisory Committee believed that additional requirements for 1995 should not exceed $367,400, which took into account the $70,000 balance in the Trust Fund. Such additional appropriations as might be necessary for 1994-1995 should be considered in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 1994-1995, which would be considered by the General Assembly during its current session. For the additional requirements of MINUSAL in 1996, the Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that the adoption of draft resolution A/50/L.7/Rev.1 would entail an additional requirement of up to $886,900 under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. Such additional appropriation as might be necessary

would be considered by the General Assembly in the context of its approval of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

53. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should decide to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/50/L.7/Rev.1, (a) additional requirements not exceeding $367,400 would be required under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, and that any additional appropriation as might be necessary would be dealt with in the context of the performance report for the biennium 1994-1995; and (b) an additional appropriation in the amount of up to $886,900 would be required under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 for the period 1 January to 30 April 1996, to be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund as provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213, and an additional appropriation of $105,000 would also be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by income in the same amount under section 1, Income from staff assessment.

54. Ms. SHENWICK (United States of America) suggested that a reference might be made to the comments of the Chairman of ACABQ.

55. The CHAIPMAN suggested that, in the light of the United States representative's suggestion, the Fifth Committee should decide to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/50/L.7/Rev.1, (a) additional requirements not exceeding $367,400 would be required under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, and that any additional appropriations as might be necessary would be dealt with in the context of the performance report for the biennium 1994-1995; and (b) for the additional requirements of MINUSAL in 1996, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that the adoption of draft resolution A/50/L.7/Rev.1 entailed an additional requirement of up to $886,900 under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997; such additional appropriation as might be necessary would be considered by the General Assembly in the context of its approval of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

56. Ms. ALMAO (New Zealand), supported by Ms. BUERGO (Cuba), asked whether a decision needed to be taken at the current meeting, since the documents had just been distributed and almost $1 million was at stake. All statements of programme budget implications should be submitted early enough to allow the Committee to give them due consideration. Greater attention should be given to coordination between the Main Committees and the plenary Assembly.

57. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the reason given for the urgency of the decision was that the mandate of MINUSAL was due to expire on 31 October. Only a few days remained, therefore, for the General Assembly to take a decision.

58. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that her delegation wished to make some comments about the draft decision at the next meeting of the Committee. That would still allow enough time for the General Assembly to take action before the expiration of the mandate of MINUCAL.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.